Date: Mon, 30 Aug 93 21:35:29 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #1029
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Mon, 30 Aug 93 Volume 93 : Issue 1029

Today's Topics:

(none)
Crickets and CW
Dual Band Handies?
Info on Antenna
Kenwood TM-241/A questions:
Morris Dead (but not Morse?)
Passed 20 W.P.M. test
Passed test, what do I do now?
Poem in "Man Without a Face" (2 msgs)
qsl routes for 5U7M and C9RJJ
recommendations for 2m HT's please?
Tom Miller Electronics opinions?
Your packet network?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 30 Aug 93 23:27:35 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: (none)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Hello everyone,

  From reading the postings on the performance of the most popular dual band
HTs (Alinco, Kenwood and Yaesu), it is clear that intermod is a problem in
all of them. I am considering buying a Kenwood HT-78A dual-band

handheld, because it has features which I find very useful. However if
the intermod problem is very bad on this rig, that could make it worthless
for me. I plan to use the HT in the San Francisco Bay area, which I've
heard is a problematic zone due to high RF activity. So maybe the HT-78A
will not perform as expected and I might need to consider a different HT.

Opinions of this unit, the intermod problem and solutions are most welcome!

You can send me e-mail to this address: gosset@132.248.32.1

Thanks in advance!

73 XE1RGL

Date: 30 Aug 1993 15:55:46 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!cleveland.Freenet.Edu!dd711@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Crickets and CW
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

David R Gagnon N1??? writes..
> While waiting for my license, I have been attempting to learn CW. The
> other night, while practicing in humid 85 degree weather, I heard
> hesitant chirping of a cricket outside of a nearby open window. Between
> the heat, humidity and the cricket, I decided it was time to call it a
> night. When I shut down the super morse program, the cricket stopped
> chirping. Was my computer generating some inadvertent mating call for
> crickets?

I have experienced the same, most recently at our cottage on Cape
Cod, where I was operating /1. The little buggers REALLY go nuts
if you tune 14060 plus, where the cricket-like AMTOR chirps
send them into chirp arythmia. Kind of fun, at least for a few
minutes! 73.Hope you get your ticket soon and hear your CW on
the air!

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_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_[_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-]
[ Chuck Reti    Detroit,Michigan             [ "kill          ]
[ Internet:dd711@cleveland.freenet.edu    ÛÛÛÛ   [     ugly       ]
[         ad985@freenet.buffalo.edu         [        radio"  ]
[ AX.25 packet:WV8A@wb8zpn.#semi.mi.usa.na   [      -F. Zappa ]
[ AMPRnet:wv8a@wv8a.ampr.org[44.102.48.54]   [-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_]
-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-_-
```

Date: Mon, 30 Aug 93 15:16:07 GMT

From: mnemosyne.cs.du.edu!nyx!dsharp@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Dual Band Handies?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

marcbg@feenix.metronet.com (Marc Grant) writes:

>OK, I know we've talked about this alot, but I have the FT-530. What are
>some other good dual band handies? How does everyone like the W21AT?
>What about the Alinco DJ580? Kenwood TH78? If this information can be
>found in the archives please tell me where to look. Thanks.

I have the Icom IC-24AT and I love it. I bought it at the Dayton
Hamvention last April, and the only problem I've had with it since
then is when my cat knocked into a sink of water while it was powered
up. When I found it, it was completely dead, so I turned it off,
opened it up, drained it out, and let a fan blow over it for about
3 days. When I finally re-assembled it, it came back to life with
no side effects at all. I guess it says a lot about how indestructable
Icom radios are.

--
+---+
| Dave Sharp, NU8H   dsharp@nyx.cs.du.edu |
| 73657.1554@compuserve.com |
| "Eagles may soar, but weasels |

Date: 30 Aug 93 09:28:16 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!cs.utexas.edu!swrinde!menudo.uh.edu!BUDS1.baylor.edu!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Info on Antenna
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I have a '84 pontiac Fiero, and I would like to know what would be the
best antenna and other equip necessary to transmit

Here is what I have. I have a Yaesu FT-530, with a cigarrete lighter adapter
for the power supply, and of course the extra battery, and etc.

I plan to use my HT to transmit from my car for right now, until I get
enough money saved up for a mobile.

So I need to know, should I get the dual-on glass antenna? or a 1/2 wave
with a mount, and if so what kind of mount (my car isn't made of metal, so it
is not magnetic *smmirk*)

Tony

tsm@gandalf.baylor.edu

Date: Mon, 30 Aug 1993 17:04:32 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!overload.lbl.gov!agate!spool.mu.edu!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!
news.unomaha.edu!cwis.unomaha.edu!rerickso@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Kenwood TM-241/A questions:
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Apparently my condensor mike cartridge has bit the
dust. Is this common and, if so, is there protective
circuitry I can build to prevent it?

I am considering making a spare mike from a Radio Shack
power mike. It is a dynamic mike with noise cancelling.
Does anyone see a problem with that? I think I will install
a 1:1 isolation transformer on the audio chain which should
eliminate any problems with interfacing. Since the normal
condensor ground is floating and 8-volts is supplied to
the condensor mike, how is the internal part of the condensor
mike designed with electonics? Does anyone know the schematic
for the condensor mike internal wiring?

Ron
AK0N
rerickso@cwis.unomaha.edu

Date: 30 Aug 93 11:05:55 CDT
From: timbuk.cray.com!walter.cray.com!renaissance!wws@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Morris Dead (but not Morse?)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Aug28.214820.20050@bongo.tele.com>, julian@bongo.tele.com (Julian
Macassey) writes:
|>
|> I was reading the "Animal Press", a bunny hugger/save the
|> whales newspaper. There on page 2 was an item that shocked me:
|>
|> Mark L. Morris, aged 92, Founder of the Morris foundation
|> died on July 8 in Naples Florida.
|>
|> First of all, this proves that Morris is for geezers - wow 92,
|> definate geezer age. But what is going to happen now that Morris is
|> dead? Will the ARRL take over?

Inspector Morse, the Brit detective often seen on PBS here in
the States, seems alive and well.

(And yes, if one listens to the theme music, the violins play
_ _   _ _ _   . _ .   . . .   . over and over again. Very comforting.)

Walt

Walt Spector
(wws@renaissance.cray.com)
Sunnyvale, California
_._ _._ _.... _. ._.

Date: Mon, 30 Aug 1993 20:14:12 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!nigel.msen.com!well!moon!pixar!bruce@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: Passed 20 W.P.M. test
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I passed the 20 WPM test on Saturday, so I'd like to pass on my
observations as they may help someone else.

I expected to pass the 13 WPM test, not the 20. I can copy by ear at
17, much slower if I have to write anything down. I copied what felt
like a third to half of the test transmission, but still got enough to
get 80% on the multiple-choice test. The examiners were ARRL VECs. They
provided individual cassette players with headphones for the tests.

I studied by downloading the AP News from Compuserve and having Morse
Academy send that while I copied by ear. I avoided writing anything
down while I studied, since I was more concerned with understanding
words in code than transcribing characters. I'd suggest that anyone
else who has the goal of passing the 20 WPM test do that: forget about
writing down copy, relax, and listen to the news in code for half an
hour or more every evening. The AP headlines on Compuserve run about 25
minutes at 20 WPM, and they provide a new text every hour. I wrote a
small program to translate inappropriate characters in the AP text to
the ARRL code test character set, and to remove extra spaces. I studied
using a Farnsworth character rate of 22 WPM, and a word rate that
allowed me perhaps 90% copy. I found that there was enough context to
keep up at 90% copy, even if I dropped a few words from a news story.
Learning how to copy in a relaxed fashion when you are missing 10% of
characters will teach you how to ignore the characters you didn't copy
instead of hanging up on them, which is extremely important. I did
hang at the 13 WPM plateau for a few weeks, but eventually pushed
across it after studying for an hour an evening every day for a week.

Just before I took the test, I listened to three 20 WPM examinations in my car, copying by ear and using my 286 laptop and the Morse Academy software. I use the Disney Sound Source as it is louder than my PC's speaker, but that is not essential. I think the warm-up helped a lot.

When I took the test, I wrote down only things that I thought would be test answers, and nothing else. My handwriting is very slow due to a mild neurological problem, and my longhand is even slower than my block lettering, so this was a good strategy for me. I wrote the callsigns, the signal report, and most of the words that came after "is" or were otherwise keywords. For instance, when the transmission said "my occupation is mechanic", I wrote down "mechanic" and left it at that. For "my QTH is 4 miles North of Auburn, Texas", I wrote "4 N Auburn, Tx".

Even using the above strategy, I missed a lot. I got 4 characters of one callsign, and even less of the other callsign. I missed a whole sentence somewhere. However, I had enough written down that when I saw the multiple choice test, I could determine what the callsigns must have been from my partial copy. I was sure of half of the answers, and had enough to make good guesses on the rest of them. Still, I was shocked when the examiner found only two wrong answers.

So, to reiterate: forget about writing things down and learn to copy by ear exclusively. Once you have passed the test, you'll have lots of time to learn how to transcribe a transmission, if that's what you are interested in. Listen to the news or some other comprehensible text at the fastest rate at which you can still comprehend the story even though you are dropping characters and words. Warm up before the test by listening to sample examinations in your car for 15 minutes or more.

Oh, by the way, I don't really like the code, but I didn't want to wait for it to be eliminated before I got an Extra class license. I also wanted to have a higher class of license than most of the old crocks who felt that I wasn't a "real" ham because I was a code-free technician. Now, I can ask _them_ why they don't upgrade.

     Bruce Perens KD6OTD/AA (taking the Extra theory exam in two weeks)

Date: Mon, 30 Aug 1993 10:54:49 GMT
From: swrinde!gatech!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Passed test, what do I do now?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <mvpCCG2uL.5Cr@netcom.com> mvp@netcom.com (Mike Van Pelt) writes:
>A few weeks ago, I passed the test for Technician No-Code, and the
>examiners sent my application off to FCC Land, where it's currently
>in a holding pattern.

Congrats.

>So, while waiting for my license, I'm looking at radios and such.
>
>Where's a good place to start to find out about what's going on?
>2-meter, naturally, for voice and packet. What about 70cm? 23cm?

Band usage is area specific. Visit local club meetings, talk to
local amateurs, and find out what's hot in your area. 2 meters
is sure to be populated, but you may feel more at home with the
crowd on 70 cm in your area. It's very locale specific and interest
group specific.

>Currently I'm thinking along the lines of a dual band 2m/70cm handheld
>that receives outside the ham bands, and a TNC for packet.
>
>What about baud rates? 1200 baud sounds horribly slow to me since I
>have v.32bis on my computer, but the few people I've talked to say 1200
>baud is The Standard for packet. What's the modulation for digital?
>It wouldn't happen to be the same as for phone modems, would it? Could
>I use my regular modem for a TNC?

Sadly no. Packet does not use the same tone pairs or modulation
methods as telephone modems. 1200 baud packet uses the Bell 202
standard which is a *half duplex* standard that is not the same
as the Bell 212 standard used in 1200 baud phone modems. Besides,
most phone modems today are "Smartmodems(tm)" that have their
own controlling microprocessors with embedded firmware. That
firmware is *not* compatable with packet TNC firmware.

A good TNC, like the Pac-Comm Tiny 2 or the MFJ-1274, is in the
$120-$140 range new and can often be found used in the $60 range.
Or, you can use the Baycom approach which is a simple single chip
modem attached to your computer with the computer software doing
the TNC function. Unfortunately, such simple systems are speed
limited. If you want to run 9600 or 19,200 baud, you'll need the
real hardware TNC and an add on modem which can run another $100.

>What are good handhelds for limited bucks, and which ones should I stay
>away from? (I've seen a number of flames at Kenwood.)

The RS HT202 is a good 2 meter HT for the money. It's nearly intermod
free, and fairly rugged. Better is the Icom G series, but you pay for

that better. In dual band HTs, I still like the Yaesu FT-470 which has dropped in price since the newer FT-530 has come out. Alinco, Standard, and Icom also make reasonable dual banders, but all, including the FT-470, suffer from intermod to one degree or another. That seems inherent in wide band HTs. The FT-470 still excells in user interface IMHO, and has excellent power saver features. The features you want in an HT are ruggedness, low intermod, good battery life, and a user friendly control system. The very small HTs usually have limited battery life, aren't very rugged, and often suffer more intermod since there's less room for good filtering. Also, if you have average size fingers, the tiny radios are often difficult to operate and may require bifocals to see. :-)

Gary
--
Gary Coffman KE4ZV | "If 10% is good enough | gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems | for Jesus, it's good | uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way | enough for Uncle Sam." | emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244 | -Ray Stevens |

Date: 30 Aug 1993 08:14:58 -0400
From: sdd.hp.com!math.ohio-state.edu!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Poem in "Man Without a Face"
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

What was the poem about flying that he gives to Chuck to read?

--
Gerald A. Edgar Internet: edgar@math.ohio-state.edu
Department of Mathematics Bitnet: EDGAR@OHSTPY
The Ohio State University telephone: 614-292-0395 (Office)
Columbus, OH 43210 -292-4975 (Math. Dept.) -292-1479 (Dept. Fax)

Date: Mon, 30 Aug 1993 12:58:41 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!rm44.comm.uiuc.edu!kazel@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Poem in "Man Without a Face"
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <25sr02$kl@math.mps.ohio-state.edu> edgar@math.ohio-state.edu (Gerald Edgar) writes:
>What was the poem about flying that he gives to Chuck to read?

"High Flight" by Canadian RAF pilot John McGee. It's the same poem that

President Reagan read following the shuttle Challenger accident.
--
Mitch Kazel (N9HDQ)   PHONE: (217) 333-1259
Department of Journalism   FAX: (217) 244-3348
University of Illinois   INTERNET: kazel@uiuc.edu

Date: Mon, 30 Aug 1993 16:09:54 GMT
From: netcomsv!netcom.com!aem@decwrl.dec.com
Subject: qsl routes for 5U7M and C9RJJ
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Michele_Ann_Cimbala@cup.portal.com writes:

>Can anyone tell me the QSL manager or address for
>C9RJJ or 5U7M? Thanks in advance.

>Michele
>WK3X

>Michele Ann Cimbala@cup.portal.como
5U7M is via the JA bureau
C9RJJ is via W8GIO
73 Al
WD9IRV

Date: Mon, 30 Aug 1993 10:34:55 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!cs.utexas.edu!swrinde!gatech!kd4nc!ke4zv!
gary@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: recommendations for 2m HT's please?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Aug26.114122.5618@uoft02.utoledo.edu> mohan@tulip.es.utoledo.edu
writes:
>: Then there are the real radios by Motorola, Ericsson, and Tait. Of
>: course everything that needs to be said has been said about the
>: HT220 and the GE Mastrs. They just work and work and work. Motorola's
>: new HTX line seems really nice with almost as many bells and whistles
>: as the Japanese radios. And in your part of the world, don't ignore
>: Tait. They make fine rugged radios.
>
>Hello Gary,
>
>I am interested to know about the radios made by Motorola and other companies

>mentioned above. What about the HT220 and GE Mastrs. Do these work in the ham
>frequencies ? Where can I get info about Motorola radios and GE ones too.
>
>Are these very expensive compared to the regular ham radios ?

The HT220 and the GE Mastrs are obsolete in the commercial market,
though many police departments and others are still using them.
They show up at hamfests quite often. They are crystal controlled
and are available as hi-band or UHF. The hi-band units can be
re-tuned for 2 meters, and the UHF units can be re-tuned to 70 cm.
While some of the units are single frequency, others have 8 channel
decks. I bought 8 GE Mastrs for $50 *total* at a recent hamfest.
7 worked and one was a parts radio. The HT220s command a premium
for some reason and may cost upwards of $100 each. IMHO, the GEs
are better radios, but I'm sure there will be arguement on that
subject since the Motos are so much more highly prized by hams.
The HTX line is current production and runs in the neighborhood
of $600. They are synthesized, but limited to 16 channels in all
cases I know about. None of these radios have the bells and
whistles of ham HTs. But, they work very very well with minimal
to no intermod, and extreme ruggedness since they're designed
for the cop market.

>In similar lines what commrecial manufacturers make equipment for HF range,
>and can be used by amateurs.

The big names are Harris and Rockwell/Collins. There are others, such
as Standard Radio Systems, but the big two dominate the market. The
ARRL is using Harris equipment I believe. Again they are pricy with
their offerings starting at the price level of the most expensive
amateur rigs and climbing rapidly from there.

Gary

--
Gary Coffman KE4ZV | "If 10% is good enough | gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems | for Jesus, it's good | uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way | enough for Uncle Sam." | emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244 | -Ray Stevens |

Date: 31 Aug 93 01:09:30 GMT
From: news.service.uci.edu!ucivax!gateway@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Tom Miller Electronics opinions?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Anyone out there have experience with Tom Miller Electronics for

radio repairs? I just discovered the ad in QST and find the place is
about 15 miles from me (darned convenient). I would like to have an
older Ten Tec rig repaired there, but need to hear from anyone on
reliability / price of this guy.

Clark
.....

Clark Savage Turner, Graduate Student Researcher
Safety Critical Software Group   home:
Department of Info. and Computer Science 1514 Verano Place
Irvine, CA. 92717   Irvine, CA. 92715
(714) 856 4049   (714) 856 2131

WA3JPG, QRP #3526, active on HF, VHF and UHF.
ARRL Volunteer Counsel

Date: Mon, 30 Aug 1993 10:18:38 GMT
From: pravda.sdsc.edu!news.cerf.net!usc!cs.utexas.edu!swrinde!gatech!kd4nc!ke4zv!
gary@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Your packet network?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <CCD90F.CxH@icsbelf.co.uk> mark@icsbelf.co.uk (Mark Willis) writes:
>
>There is a possibilty thet the packet network in GI will be overhauled in
>the near future. We suffer from enormous congestion problems in 144.650, but
>there is little traffic on the other 2m freqs. (so far)
>
>What I need to know is how is the packet network arranged in your area? The
>main problem seems to be a lack of freqs on 2m, the bandplan being:
>
>   144.625 TCP/IP
>   144.650 BBS and Network access
>   144.675 PacketCluster
>
>The real problem is having nodes AND bbs's on 650. How does the network
>in your area get around this problem? Also, what type of links do you run,
>and at what speed?

In Georgia, we use the LAN system (actually should be MAN, but the term
has already become corrupted too much to fix it now). We have several
2 meter frequencies, and a couple of 440 MHz frequencies for user access
to the system at 1200 and 9600 baud. We don't segregate TCP/IP from other
packet. The BBS's operate a user port on the LAN frequency, and a second
port on the backbone and forwarding frequency. That port is not for users.

It's only used to forward traffic from one LAN BBS to another. The user's only access to the backbone is via his LAN switch node. That too is dual ported, and allows a user in one LAN to contact a user in another LAN via the backbone relay facilities, or act as a normal repeater node on the LAN frequency depending on what the user needs to do. Some LAN switches are actually duplex repeaters (like a voice repeater) with the switch node attached. The backbone links are at 56 kilobaud operating either at 70 cm or in the 222 MHz band, again in a checkerboard fashion to facilitate frequency reuse. The system doesn't yet cover the entire state, so some stations must link in via various kludges if they are located in more remote areas.

That's the GRAPES system. It currently has thruput in excess of our needs. There is also a separate PacketCluster network operating on a common frequency at 9600 baud, with ocasional separate user access frequencies for individual clusters, and there is a ROSE chat network operating on a single frequency statewide. These latter are easily overloaded due to their topology, and usage is restricted, IE no file transfers or mail forwarding.

Gary
--
Gary Coffman KE4ZV |"If 10% is good enough | gatech!wa4mei!ke4zv!gary
Destructive Testing Systems | for Jesus, it's good | uunet!rsiatl!ke4zv!gary
534 Shannon Way | enough for Uncle Sam."| emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary
Lawrenceville, GA 30244 | -Ray Stevens |

Date: 30 Aug 1993 18:16:13 GMT
From: noc.near.net!news.bbn.com!bbn.com!levin@uunet.uu.net
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <sanjeev.11.000D9CDF@anest4.anest.ufl.edu>, <draveyCCI1FA.Lv2@netcom.com>, <CCI8o5.LM1@mentor.cc.purdue.edu>near
Subject : Re: new ham?

blumb@sage.cc.purdue.edu (Bill Blum) writes:
|In all the books, materials, etc. I have, it says that anyone wanting to
|take a Novice exam for the first time can find just two General class
|licensees and go for it.
|However, these books are not current. (1990)

|Is this policy still in effect?

It's two months out of date. As of July 1 this year, novice tests are given only at VE sessions as for all the other classs of license.

But if you only take elements 1A and 2 (5wpm code and novice written)
the ARRL VEC sponsored sessions won't charge you any fee.

     /JBL
=
Nets: levin@bbn.com | "Earn more sessions by sleeving."
pots: (617)873-3463 |
KD1ON (@KB4N.NH.USA) | -- Roxanne Kowalski

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #1029
****